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are those dealing with the economic life of the colony. The experiments with indigo and cotton, the export of valuable woods, the rise of the sugar-cane industry which, especially when war conditions made the prices for the staple rise, gave the islands their boom periods, all furnish interesting contrasts and parallels for students of the history of other West Indian colonies.

Taken as a whole, the story is a sorry one of hardships, disappointments and defeats, especially before the purchase of St. Croix in 1733, at which time the population of white adults numbered only 482, little more than twice as many as were in the colony a generation before. With the acquisition of the agriculturally richer St. Croix and the expansion of the sugar trade the picture brightens; but with greater prosperity the usual abuses of company rule became even less tolerable, and that system of control came to an end in 1754.

The supplemental chapter gives a bird's-eye view of the subsequent history of the islands which is the most interesting part of the book for the general reader. An excellent series of appendices, chiefly statistical, shows the economic and social conditions existing in the colony at various periods.

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Chatham's Colonial Policy. A Study in the Fiscal and Economic Implications of the Colonial Policy of the Elder Pitt. By KATE HOTBLACK, J. E. Cairnes Scholar of Girton College. (London and New York: E. P. Dutton and Company. 1917. Pp. xv, 219.)

That Chatham directed his foreign and colonial policy with an eye to trade, is a commonplace; but Miss Hotblack has ventured a documenting of the subject which was well worth undertaking. Her book is built up from Chatham's correspondence, his speeches, and his departmental letters in the Record Office; and it makes out a clear case for regarding his conduct in the light of a supreme concern for mercantile interests.

An obvious comment upon the work is, that being confined for the most part to material of an official character, it tends to reflect too exclusively an official view. Chatham's judgments become detached from their origin and place in contemporary political controversy, and stand out unduly magnified and exalted above the popular trade argu-

ments of the day. It is really not sufficient, and it serves only the most limited purpose, to contrive, as Miss Hotblack does, to make Chatham explain his conduct in his own words. It would be better, in addition, to attempt to value his views by resetting them in the arena of public debate from which they have been isolated. Had Miss Hotblack only cared to go further afield and to master, for example, the collections of pamphlets upon the Seven Years War alone, her study of Pitt's trading policy would have appeared less contracted. A few, even, of the eighty-odd pamphlets on the Canada-Guadaloupe controversy would have shown that in such a dispute the routine information of a government department does not compare for interest with the lively solicitude given the question in unofficial discussion. Also, more specifically, the same pamphlets would have explained the actual issue in the choice between Guadaloupe and Canada—an alternative which Miss Hotblack, relying too closely perhaps upon departmental letters, seems strangely to misinterpret; partly, it is to be feared, from a rather insecure understanding of the geography and economic exploitation of Canada before the cession. However, within the self-imposed limitations of this brief piece of research Miss Hotblack has sought out some very telling illustrative material, which elucidates Chatham's mercantilism, and throws the subject into clear outline.

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The Origins of the Triple Alliance. By ARCHIBALD CARY COOLIDGE. (New York: Charles Scribner's Sons. 1917. Pp. vi, 236.)

Although in Russia the Bolsheviki appear ready to open to all mankind the diplomatic *arcana* of the old régime, it will probably be many a day before Prussia, Austria, and Italy will allow historians free access to the secret records of their diplomatic history between 1866 and 1882. Until that day comes the historian must be content to catch at the clues in inspired newspaper articles, in hints, discreet and indiscreet, which statesmen drop in their reminiscences for the enlightenment or befogging of posterity, and in stories current in the legations and chancelleries of Europe. Professor Coolidge has caught with unusual success at all these clues available and has weighed their value with great acumen and common sense. He has wisely forborne to